



OBSERVATIONS

ON A

P A M P H L E T,

INTITLED,

*An ANSWER to one Part of a late
Infamous Libel, &c.*



[Price 1 s.]

and Miller.

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PAMPHLET,

INTITLED,

*An ANSWER to one Part of a late
Infamous Libel, &c.*

In a LETTER to Mr. P.

Restless, Unfix'd in Principle or Place;

In Power, unpleas'd; but furious in Disgrace:

In FRIENDSHIP, FALSE; Implacable in Hate:

Resolv'd to Ruin, or to Rule, the State.

Abſalom & Achit.



The SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ROBERTS, in *Warwick-Lane.*

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MDCCLXXI.



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ON A

PAMPHLET,

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An ANSWER, &c.

In a LETTER to Mr. P.

SIR,

B EFORE I begin to make any Observations on this extraordinary Performance, with which, you think, you have obliged the World, and which you are pleased to call a full Vindication of your Character and Conduct, by the general Odium which you have endeavoured to throw upon every Writer indefinitely, who has appeared in Defence of the Measures of the Administration, against the unwarrantable and indecent manner in which

you have opposed it; you have made it necessary for me to premise, that I was urged by no other ~~Motive to this Undertaking, than that just and~~ reasonable Relentment which rises in every Honest Man's Mind, at so desperate and shocking an Attack which you have made on a Gentleman, with whom you have thought proper to differ, with relation to the Administration of Publick Affairs; that the Author of these Papers neither has, nor ever had, nor ever expects to have any Place, or Pension, or Gratuity, of what Kind or Nature soever; that he is not so much as known to that Gentleman; neither his Person, nor his Name; that ~~he has never made any Applications for any~~ Favours from him, nor from any of his Friends, or Dependants; that notwithstanding, whoever is indifferent, as to the Subject of the present Controversy, he thinks, no honest Man can be so, to see the manner in which you have carried it on; nor surely be so weak, as to imagine that a Quarrel, begun by you against ~~one single Gentleman in the Administration,~~ founded on private Reasons and personal Resentments, and prosecuted with all the Rancour and Malice, that a bad Cause and a worse Heart could dictate and suggest, can ever be attended with any Advantage to the Publick; no, your Passions have been so much your Master, your Rage has been so intemperate on this Occasion, that you have yourself made it manifest to the whole World, that it is not your

your Concern how Affairs are administer'd, but who shall have the Administration of them, that has hurried you on to do such an Act of Violence, to assassinate (if I may use the Expression) that Gentleman's Character in such a manner, that no personal Animosity, nor pretended Zeal for the Welfare and Prosperity of your Country can justify; and it is doubtful to say whether in this strange and unparallel'd Attempt you have been more Indiscreet or Base, for it is certain, that in this Outrage that you have committed on that Gentleman's Reputation, you have utterly destroyed your own; for the most Weak and Partial of your Advocates and Admirers now must see, and be convinced, that you are your self that Person which you have endeavour'd in vain to represent him to be; that is, that you are a Man absolutely void of Principles, Gratitude, Truth and Honour.

It is therefore, with great Truth, that you say, *You have now taken off the Mask*; you indeed have taken it off, and by doing so have display'd the most distorted and frightful Features that were ever hid under one: And well had it been for the Publick, if you had thrown aside your Disguise sooner; many honest, well-meaning People, who were Friends to the Constitution, have been work'd up by your Artifices and Misrepresentations, to believe that the Honourable Person, against whom
you

you have been for so many Years levelling your Weekly Artillery, was endeavouring to overturn it: but you your self have undeceived them; no Man who is False, and Base, and Treacherous in private Life, can be Just, and Honest, and Faithful to his Country.

You tell the Gentleman of whom you have invented so many extravagant and improbable Falshoods, and loaded with such an Heap of black and cruel Calumnies, that *you knew his Power, and his scandalous Abuse of it, but that it shall not deter you from describing him in his proper Colours.* You know his Lenity too, as well as his Power, or you would not have dared to treat him with such shocking Ribaldry and Indecency, as were never used before without the Walls of a Bear-Garden; but you are sensible that the high and eminent Rank he holds restrains him from calling you personally to Account for your infamous Abuse, and that he scorns to make use of the Power that he stands invested with in his publick Capacity, to punish a Libel against himself in his private; for I must always insist, that 'tis the Man, and not the Minister, that is the Object of your Spite and Resentment; and in this single Instance I entirely agree with you, that he has, thro' the whole Course of his long Administration, abused his Power, in suffering a Libel to be publish'd weekly for near five Years together, and dispersed with
all

all imaginable Diligence and Industry, not only in all the Counties and Towns of *England*, but in several other Parts of *Europe*, which was continually stuffed with the most gross and groundless Invectives, the most daring and impudent Falshoods against himself, his Family, his Relations, his Friends, and his Conduct of his own domestick Concerns as a private Man, as well as his Administration of the publick Affairs as a Minister.

But how much soever you may pretend to set that Gentleman at Defiance, and tax him with *indulging his little Rage* against *Printers and Booksellers*, as imagining yourself to be above the Reach of his Power, yet you have not thought it safe or convenient to own yourself the Author of one of those Libels, for which your Bookseller has been under Prosecution, but have screen'd yourself under his Protection, and have obliged him, in every Information that has been brought against any Paper that has been written by you or your Coadjutor, to interpose between you and Danger; and yet it has been often currently reported, that your Bookseller was promised at the Commencement of your infamous Undertaking, that if any Minister should presume to call him to Account, or threaten him with a Prosecution for any thing contain'd in the *Craftsman*, you would appear and avow the writing of it: however, I don't think your
worst

worst Enemies can deny but you have shewn great Prudence and Circumspection in this Instance; 'tis the only discreet and well-adviced Step you have taken since your Opposition to the Administration began,

The Reason you give for this last Effort of your Pen, and for scattering about your Venom so plentifully in the Pamphlet now under Consideration, is founded on a Presumption, that the honourable Person abovementioned either writ himself, or directed and gave Instructions for the writing of the Remarks upon the Conduct of yourself and your illustrious Friend, and without any other Ground for this, but the mere idle Suggestion of your own Imagination; nay, so idle and so wild is the Supposition, that it is hardly possible to suppose that you believe it yourself to be true; no, you have invented the Story to furnish you with a Pretence to pour out more Rancour and Malice than ever was collected together in so few Pages before: You were sensible that the World has been frequently shock'd with the indecent Liberties that you have taken with the Gentleman's Character whom you oppose, and therefore you meanly and ungenerously pretend to have received a Provocation from him, in order to colour and palliate (if it were possible) an Outrage so violent, and extravagant, that it exceeds all that can be credited or conceived.

You

You say, you shall confine yourself in your Letter, to the Character of one of those Gentlemen with whose Character and Conduct you are best acquainted; meaning your own: and herein I shall follow your Example; for, to be plain, the other Gentleman's is too rank and offensive to be inquired into; they must have stronger Stomachs than mine, who can bear to wallow in all that Filth, which a thorough Scrutiny into that Man's Actions would necessarily lead them into; you seem to acknowledge, ingenuously enough, that this is a piece of Drudgery, as sacred and inviolable as your Friendship is at present, which even you can't your self submit to; but I foresee that you will soon throw off all Prejudices of that kind, and make his Mind and his Morals the perfect Model of your own; you have shewn by your late incomparable Production, which I have now under Consideration, how well you have improved under so accomplished a Master; the same Truth, and Honour, and Sincerity, and Benevolence shine as eminently in that Performance, as if he had dictated it to you; for the whole World will bear Testimony for him, that he, however he might differ from a Man in Principles of Policy, and the Interests of Princes and Nations, would never, for that Reason, betray the Confidence that was reposed in him, and divulge the Secrets that were intrusted to him in private.

Conversation, while the Heart was warm and open, and an intire Credit was given to his Fidelity and Friendship; far, very far, therefore would it be from entring into his Mind to invent and feign Conversations which never passed, and pretend a Confidence in a Man which he never had, only to blacken and vilify his Character, and to endeavour to render him Odious in the Eyes of his Prince, his Country, or his Friends; he, I say, would never be guilty of such Treachery, Baseness, and Ingratitude; and it appears evidently from the abovementioned Piece, that you would equally detest and abhor such a Conduct, and I am sincerely glad to find that you have so just a Sense of your Friend's distinguished Virtues and Merit, that you have at length thrown aside all those Restraints which had formerly entangled you, in order to make the Resemblance, and consequently the Friendship, between you the stronger; and indeed it was but a necessary Piece of Condescension in you, for, as you say your self, it was high Time for you, to pull off the Mask from your Face, since you know that your worthy Friend never wore one on his.

You are pleased to decline entring into any Defence of the Administration and Measures of the four last Years of *Queen Anne*, because you say, you opposed *most* of those Measures; and the World does you the Justice, to believe that

that you did not only oppose *most*, but *all*: I would scorn to cavil with a loose Phrase or unguarded Expression, or force an Interpretation upon a Word which it will not bear, but there seems to be something like a Jesuitical Reserve in this same Monosyllable *most*; that some Meaning is couched under it, which it may not yet be proper to explain, or why should not you be as free to declare that you opposed *ALL the Measures of the Administration of the last four Years of Queen Anne*, which is wholly true, as that you only opposed *most* of them, which is but partly so; I suppose, if either thro' Indolence or Illness you happen'd not to be present when any *dirty Jobb* (to use your own elegant Expression) for that Ministry was to be done, you will come now twenty Years afterwards, and tell the World, that as you did not oppose it *then*, so it is not acting inconsistently with your self to defend it *now*; and, for my own part, I own I should not be in the least surprized to see you shelter your self under so mean a Subterfuge, and roundly enter into a Defence of those Measures of that Administration, which you did not oppose, tho' you are pleased to say it cannot be expected from you; it will be perfectly agreeable to the Conduct you have hitherto observed, if you should ever think fit to act such a Part; and I must beg leave to repeat what I have said just

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before,

before, that I should not be at all surprized to see it; and do expect it from you.

And that this is no unreasonable or groundless Suspicion, such as you conceive and fill the World with, on every slight Occasion, your own Words will be a sufficient Testimony; *for why, say you, may not two Gentlemen, who formerly differ'd about the Conduct of Publick Affairs, concur in their Sentiments about the Conduct of Affairs at present, without any Imputation on their Characters, or any Regard to what was done almost twenty Years ago?* And you might have gone one Step further, and with as much Consistency with your self, have ask'd, Why you might not change the Sentiments that you entertain'd of an Administration, so long as twenty Years ago, as have chang'd your Sentiments of the present Administration? for is it not plainly a Contradiction to common Sense, to imagine, that you should condemn the Measures and Conduct of a Gentleman when he was a *Minister*, and espouse his Cause, and pursue his Counsels, after his Country had unanimously judg'd him unworthy to be an *Excise Man*; in which neither your Voice nor Concurrence was wanting, as shall be mention'd immediately; for it is manifest to all the World, that his Principles and Politicks are the same they always were, and all the Actions of his Life intirely consistent and of a Piece,

tho

tho' you have been so fickle and wavering in yours.

You say indeed, *that it cannot be expected that you should enter into any Defence of the Administration and Measures of the four last Years of Queen Anne*; and yet I am inclin'd to believe, that whoever was to have such Expectations, would not in the End find themselves deceiv'd; for would it not be perfectly agreeable to the Part you have thought fit to act, to avow openly in the Face of the World your Approbation of the Measures of that Administration? Nay, where would be the Difference between entering into a Defence of that Administration, and declaring publicly, *as you have done in this Bundle of Scurrility and Falshood*, what a Misfortune you esteem it to be, that the Minister, who was attainted by Parliament for pursuing those Measures, should *be prevented by his Attainder, from exerting his unquestionable Capacities in the Service of his Country*; which you call, *the unhappy Effects of Party Prejudices, that often depress Men of the greatest Abilities, whilst the most unworthy are exalted?*

But let us consider a little this extraordinary Passage, for this seems to be the choicest Flower in the whole Nosegay; indeed the Gentleman's Fury and Violence have plunged him into some Difficulties and Contradictions here, which
can

can be nothing but the Effects of the strongest Infatuation and Despair: Would Mr. P. if he had been in his right Mind; or rather, if he was not absolutely distracted, would he ever have told the World, that Ld. B's. Attainder was the *unhappy Effects of Party Prejudices; and have lamented that he should be prevented, by that Misfortune, from exerting his unquestionable Capacities in the Service of his Country*; would He, I say, this boasted disinterested Patriot, have said this, if he had had the least Spark of Modesty, Honour, or common Honesty left, when it is yet fresh in every one's Memory, how Zealous, how Implacable he was to pursue this very same Person to Destruction; how he was one amongst the foremost of those, who was the most violent to bring him to Punishment, and to pass the Bill of Attainder against him; nay, and who was afterwards as vehement in opposing the Reversal of any Part of it, as he had been before in promoting it, and who us'd his utmost Endeavours to Obstruct and Defeat that Act of Mercy, which the late King, out of his natural Clemency and Greatness of Mind, was willing should be extended to this Person; and, yet now Mr. P. not only pities this very Person's Misfortunes, but he is not even ashamed to say, that it would be for the Service of his Country, if he were again exalted into such an elevated Station, from which Mr. P. himself contributed as much as any Man, to tumble him down, as a
 Monster

Monster of Perfidy and Iniquity, and an Enemy to his Country.

When you come seriously then to reflect on your present Conduct, and to compare it with your past, and to take a View of your own Behaviour, and consider how inconsistently you have acted with your self, and recollect what a Prey you have always been to your Passions, how unsteady and wavering both in your Principles and Actions, how false a Friend, how implacable an Enemy, and both a Friend and an Enemy, as this or that Passion has predominated, Immoderate and Violent in each Capacity, Reasonable or Prudent in neither; I say, if you should ever be capable of looking so far into your own Mind, you would easily discover, that Ambition, Insolence, Pride, Rancour, Malice, Vain-glory, Boasting, Self-conceit and Envy, are the Principal Ingredients that go into the Composition of your Character, and contribute more than any other Motive to your Patriotism and publick Virtues.

You tell the honourable Gentleman, *that it is impossible to collect thro' the whole Course of the Remarks*, which you are pleased to call his, for a very base Purpose, as has been observed before, and shall be immediately taken Notice of again; *to whom you impute that Letter, which occasion'd this Piece of Scurrility.*

lity. And a little after you say, *that the Compliments paid Mr. P. in one of the Letters in the Craftsman, was a sufficient Foundation for you to Revile, Abuse, and Asperse him by Way of Answer, and to load him with all the Calumny that you could crowd into a Billingsgate Pamphlet; and then you bid him not think to retort the Charge on you and your Collegue, by saying, that we attack you in the same manner, without enquiring whether you was the Author of this Pamphlet, or approved of it, that you know he has already taken Pains to disown it for fear of a Reply, but that notwithstanding all, you are sure that this Pamphlet, or at least the Materials with which 'tis put together, could come from No-body but himself.* Now if it should ever be made appear, that the honourable Gentleman, whom you are pleased to abuse in this most licentious Manner, upon the Presumption that he either Writ the Remarks himself, or imploy'd Somebody else to Write them; never had the least Knowledge of the Thing before it was Printed, and that he neither Writ a Syllable of it himself, nor dictated one to any other Person, nor furnished the Author with any of those Passages of *Secret History*, which you say are so falsely stated and misrepresented; if this should be made appear, as every one must be very well convinced it may, who reads with any Attention this same Pamphlet, that has put your Friend and you into such a terrible

ble

ble Consternation, and Fit of Raving and Frenzy, how mean, how despicable a Figure must you make in the Eyes of the World, who only to colour the base Wounds you have endeavoured to give to a Gentleman's Reputation, have accus'd him publickly of Writing a *Thing*, which, in your own Conscience, you believe he never saw till it might have been presented to him in Print, and which then, perhaps, he might not approve, as 'tis plain, from your own Words, he did not, by the Pains you say he has taken to deny it: Where is the Difference then, between a Man who Hacks and Stabs another's Reputation, upon the Presumption of an Injury which he knows he never receiv'd from him, and that, only to gratify a wild, unreasonable, extravagant Resentment, the Dictates of a malignant, venom'd Mind; and a private Assassin, who lurks in some obscure Hole or Alley, to slit a Nose, or disfigure a Face, or disable a Limb, or murder a Man in the Dark?

For my own part, I am utterly ignorant, whether the noble Person, who is the Hero of your Piece, has taken any, or what, Authors into his Pay, or with what Views or Motives those Persons write in his Defence, against the virulent Aspersions and notorious Falshoods with which you are continually, Weekly and Daily, endeavouring to blacken his Conduct and Character; if it be true, that he has made

some Acknowledgements, or given some Gratuities to any one who has enter'd the Lists against the Libels that you are perpetually dispersing thro' the Kingdom; surely this is a very justifiable Thing; surely you, of all the World, ought never to reproach that honourable Person, *with having taken Authors into his Pay, when you your self began the Practice,* and have now actually in your own Service, two or three of the most eminent Authors of the *Dunciad*, as you are pleas'd to term them, and were glad to receive them too upon any Terms, even after they had offer'd Him their Pens, and he had declin'd accepting them: Surely you, of all Mankind, should never charge that Gentleman with beating up for Volunteer Writers, who have not been asham'd by paying them the most abject Court, to retain in your Cause the most abandon'd Set of Scribblers, that ever affronted the Publick with Scandal; a Set of Miscreants, who have broke thro' all the Bounds of Modesty and Decency, and with incredible and unprecedented Cruelty and Brutality have ransack'd into the Secrecies of private Persons, to destroy the Peace of Families, and make their Misfortunes their Sport, who cannot pass with Impunity, without a Reproach to the Justice of the Nation; and after all this, with what Truth or Modesty can *you* presume to tell a Gentleman of retaining Troops of Scribblers in

in his Pay, who are the Leader of such a lewd and disorderly *Banditti* your self?

But, sensible what scandalous Lengths you have run, and how some of your warmest Friends and Advocates have been disgusted at it, you own that you cannot justify the *Craftsman*, and the Reason you give why you will not undertake to do it, is, that it is a weekly Paper, in which many Hands are concerned, or, to use your own Words, a *Turkish Army of Scribblers*, for whom you are not obliged to be answerable, tho' an Army absolutely devoted to your Service, and *adapted to your Politicks*; with what Justice is it then that you will make this Gentleman answerable for all the indiscreet Things that may be published in his Favour; Things which it is not to be supposed he could have Leisure enough to write, or Inclination enough to read?

I must ingenuously confess, my Sentiments of the Matter are, that the Authors of both Sides in these *Political* Altercations and Disputes, are actuated by much the same Motives with one another, and that the Reason that either Party gives for engaging in these kind of Contests, is very far from being the true one; and indeed the Publick, who listen generally so attentively to the Controversy, seem to do it more out of Curiosity, than from any Interest they take in the Success of it, or any

Regard to the Good of their Country, or the Preservation of Liberty, or the Prosperity of Trade, which the Writers of each Side pretend to be the sole Object of their Views: Every Man who has made any Observations of this Matter, knows, that the great ones mean nothing more than to write themselves into Power, if they can, and the little ones into Pocket; but that the honourable Gentleman, whose Conduct and Character, whose Estate and Family, whose Children and Relations, whose Person and Employments, whose Shape and Dress, whose Age and Size are the Occasion and Subject of all these learned Arguments and Debates, bears them with as little Emotion, and as much Patience, as *Cæsar*, or any other Hero of Antiquity does, the Disquisitions that are made concerning his Conduct by the young Disputants in the University.

I shall make no Animadversions on those Passages in your Book, in which you endeavour to vindicate your own Conduct, with relation to your Behaviour in Publick, where your Defence is attended with no insolent unmannerly Reproaches or scurrilous Reflexions upon the Conduct or Character of Another; if you think fit to oppose the Court, or the Measures of the Administration, and do it with Decency, and in your proper Place, no Doubt you have a Right so to do; if you thought it a wrong Measure to keep Twelve thousand

thousand *Hessian Troops* in Pay, it was not only a justifiable Action, but it was your Duty to oppose it in Parliament; if you think any other Step wrong that the Gentlemen in the Administration have taken, or may take, in God's Name bear your Testimony against it, There, where it is only decent and becoming you to do it; but do not, for your own Sake, let your Rage be so much your Master as to rail and call Names, and write Libels, and sink yourself beneath the Dignity of a Gentleman, into a Character for which you seem to express so much Contempt, I mean, a Scribbler of Libels yourself, and a Disperser and Publisher of those writ by other Men.

I don't think myself obliged to defend every Assertion that the Author of the Remarks has advanced, and therefore I shall pass over the learned Comment you have made on the Act of Settlement; if that Author has, as you say, accused you of charging the King *with having broken the Act of Settlement*, I must leave him to make his Words good; but, for God's sake, is the noble Person whom you would fain persuade the World to imagine to be the Author of that Pamphlet, to be accountable for all the rash or unadvised Things that the Person who writ those Remarks, or he who writes these Observations, may let drop? You know the Opinion he entertains of these kind of Writings

too well, to believe that any of them are writ with his Approbation or Privity; if he would himself condescend to answer your Pamphlets or Journals, you would appear in Print with very little Grace again: but all those who have any Regard for the Welfare and Prosperity of their Country, desire always to see him otherwise employ'd.

If a Man was to form his Idea of the *English* Government from your Writings, by the perpetual Cant that runs thro' them concerning Liberty, Publick Spirit, Corruption, slavish Doctrines, and dependant Parliaments, he would imagine that the Slavery in *England* was more terrible than that in *Turkey*, but at the same time would be strangely puzzled to conceive how you would dare to disperse such Libels with Impunity in a Country where there is no Shadow of Liberty left, which would be punished with the greatest Severity, in one where the People enjoy'd all their Liberties in their utmost Latitude; and 'tis a Story very commonly known, that a Person of great Distinction, and who had been himself a Deputy of the States of *Holland*, was sent to the *Rasp-House* for Life, for publishing a Libel against one of the Magistrates of *Rotterdam*.

The Endeavours, you say, this Gentleman has made to fix *Jacobitism* upon you, by
false

false Misrepresentations, in a *certain Closet*, is a Tale that carries with it so strong an Air of Improbability, that it would deserve some Animadversions, if it could be done with any Decency or Respect to a Person, whom you have made it necessary to mention upon this Occasion, if any Notice at all were to be taken of your strange Assertions concerning what passes between that Person, and the Honourable Gentleman in this Closet: You say there is a current Report, that he has told the latter very plainly, *that he ly'd, and likewise given him some certain Appellations, which are even too harsh for you to repeat in Publick*: That is very extraordinary, truly! What Idea must those Words convey, or what Language must they be convey'd in, which you would scruple to repeat again? Or how could you come to the Knowledge of the Conversation that passes between two Persons in a private Closet, where nobody is present or within hearing but themselves? What Foundation therefore could there be for such a Report? Certainly none. Who then could raise such a false and groundless Report? The Answer is easy: Who but the Author of the *Craftsman*, the *Author of the Proper Reply*, the *Author of the Answer to the Remarks*, the *Author of all the false and groundless Reports that have been published for near these five Years past*.

You

You boast of your having not only been educated in *Whig Principles*, but of your *Resolution* always to act upon them. That you was ever zealously attach'd to the *Protestant Succession* in the present *Royal Family*; that you are still zealous for the *Support* of it; and that if the *Counsels* of the honourable *Person* should ever bring his *Majesty's Title* into *Dispute*, or *Danger*, you will venture your *Life* and *Fortune* as far as any *Man* in the *Defence* of it: Very loyally and very magnanimously said, upon my Word! And this Declaration of yours is to stand as a Proof, that you have not left your old *Whiggish Principles*, in which you were educated, to embrace *Jacobitism* and the *Cause* of the *Pre-tender*. But who is there amongst the most zealous of that *Person's* Friends and Followers that might not have said as much? Might not his own Children, his Favourites, his Ministers, his whole Court have made the same Declaration, even before the Altar at High Mass, that they would forsake the Cause of their Father, their Friend, their Master, and defend with their Life and Fortune his Majesty's Title to the Crown, when the honourable Person you intend shall bring it into Dispute or Danger? I am apt to imagine, there would not be a *Nonjuror* in all his Majesty's Dominions, if they should be obliged to swear nothing more than that; the most bigotted

bigotted *Jacobite*, with a very safe Conscience might venture to affirm his Attachment to the illustrious Prince upon the Throne, in the very same Terms that Mr. P. has done. Are such Jesuitical Evasions to be construed Professions of Duty and Loyalty to the King? But give me Leave to tell you, *dear Sir*, in your own Words, *that such Stuff will not pass.*

You are charged, you say, with opposing the King's Affairs in general, and attempting to distress the publick Service in every Branch of the Government. The Charge is a very heavy one indeed, and it imported you very much, who pretend to have nothing but the Publick Good in View in the Opposition you give the Minister, to clear yourself of it: You deny the Charge, it must be own'd, and say farther, *that you could give several Instances of National Points, which are chiefly owing to you, and mention several others which you have been very instrumental in promoting, and many more which you never attempted to defeat, since your Opposition to the honourable Gentleman to whom you address yourself.* If you could have shewn any of these Instances of true Patriotism and Publick Spirit, which you say you could, why were you backward to do it? Was it Modesty restrained you? It could not be that; for the whole World

is a Witness in what an indecent Manner you have trumpeted your own Praises through the Kingdom: If you could mention a single Instance of a Vote that you have given, in any National Point, for these last four or five Years, which was not founded on your Resentment to the Minister, and your Opposition to his Measures, you would do yourself a great Service with all the sensible Part of the World, all whom you have not made as hot-headed as yourself with Complaints of Mismanagements, they do not know in what, and Clamours against a Gentleman in the Administration, they do not know why; all such Persons would, without doubt, think more favourably of your Conduct, when you have justified it in this Particular; but till then, they must suspend both their Opinion and Belief.

I have neither Inclination or Capacity to make any Inquiry into Treaties or Alliances with Foreign Princes or States, and can have no other way of Judging of them, than by the Event, the only way that Persons in my Station can have to form any Notion concerning them, or to know whether they are Advantageous and Honourable or not: If all the Treaties for these last sixteen Years, have, as you say, been Silly ones, they have been attended with as many good Consequences, and followed with as many national Advantages to these

these Kingdoms, as if they were ever such Wise ones; nay, as if you or your Friend had had the negotiating of them your selves; Silly Treaties, for ought I know, they may be; I dare say, however, that they are not so on our Side, for the Reason I've given; and I expect now to hear a certain Foreign Court called Fools, in your polite Dialect, for acceding to the late Treaty of *Vienna*.

You tell the honourable Person, *that if the Conduct of his Life was to be scrutinized in the same manner, as yours has been, what an odd Medley of Inconsistencies should we discover; that tho' he was Educated in Whig Principles, he has acted in Concert with the Tories; that he has been at times an intemperate Zealot against France, and an obsequious Dupe to France; and that he is now relapsing into his old Aversion to France again; and so you go on in the same polite Strain for several Lines together: And, good Sir, do you call this scrutinizing into a Man's Character? Are such groundless, general Assertions, without one Proof or single Fact to support them, to be the Foundation of the Accusation that you threaten the noble Person with? Nay, so Zealous as you were in the Prosecution of the late Lord Viscount Bolingbroke, so great an Enemy as you thought him to be to your Country, would you have been so blinded with Party Prejudices, would you have let*

the *Spirit of Liberty*, or *Spirit of Faction*, or whatever Denomination you may be pleased to distinguish your Zeal by, have hurried you away so far as to break thro' all the Bounds of Moderation and Justice, to have attained even him, to whom you bore so implacable, so inveterate an Aversion, without any other Evidence of Guilt, than what your own hot, distemper'd Imagination presented you with? and must the Gentleman abovemention'd, who, you own, was once your Friend, to whom, it may be collected even from your own Words, you are obliged for some Favours, and from whom you have not yet made it appear you have received any Injury; Must this Gentleman be vilify'd, aspersed, blacken'd, abused; by the basest, meanest, most ungenerous Arts? Must Attempts be made to render him Odious in the Eyes of his Fellow Subjects? Must he be the Subject of Weekly Calumny and Slander? And have his Character torn to Pieces to satisfy the little envious Petulancy of some Men, and the craving Necessities of others?

If you have any Objections to this Gentleman's Conduct as a Minister, you have had Opportunities enow, and have been often urg'd and importuned to lay your Finger upon the particular Facts, and point out what he has done amiss, or what he has omitted to do, which might have proved for the general Advantage of the Nation, where our Situation
or

or Circumstances would admit it to be done : I am sensible it is a very easy Matter to make eternal Repetitions and Clamours concerning Weak, Blundering, Corrupt, Wicked Ministers, and perhaps to impose upon the lower Class of Men, so far as to persuade them that all your Complaints against Men in Power are just and reasonable ; but sure there can be no Merit in this Sort of Popularity, nor any shining Talents, or a *Genius above the Vulgar*, requir'd to attain it : History furnishes us with a Multitude of Examples of Men of the meanest Capacities, who either thro' the uncertain Situation and Circumstances of the Times they liv'd in, or the Lenity or Neglect of Men in Power to crush and suppress such impudent Impostors at their first Appearance, have acquired such a Degree of Popularity, as to put them into a Capacity either quite to overturn the Constitution of their Country, or to throw it into violent and terrible Convulsions ; such Methods therefore as *Massanello*, *Sacheverel*, and *Patrona* (who occasioned the late Revolution in the *Turkish Empire*) took to be Popular, such Methods have the Authors of the *Craftsman* taken ; and the only Difference that I can discern to be between any of those distinguish'd Patriots, is the different Fortunes and Success they met with, in the Execution of their several Designs and Projects, and not in their different Manner of conducting them ; all furious and hot-headed alike ; and
if

if some of them did, contrary to all human Expectation succeed in their Enterprizes, they immediately fell a Sacrifice to their own Crude and indigested Schemes when they had done.

You are pleased to enter into a long Vindication of your self, from the Charge that is brought against you, *of your having shar'd the Bounties, or added to the Pensions of the Crown*, notwithstanding you have inveigh'd so bitterly against other Persons, who have been suspected of receiving any Gratuities of the like Kind; but you still proceed upon the same Presumption which we have had Occasion to mention once or twice before; I mean, that the honourable Person is the Author of the Remarks; or, what amounts to the same thing, that he was privy to, and gave Directions for the Writing them; which we cannot admit, and therefore we don't think our selves oblig'd to justify the abovementioned Charge contained in that Pamphlet.

One thing it will be necessary to take Notice of here, because you have made it the Foundation of much Calumny, and will serve to illustrate that Inconsistency and Contradiction which we insist are, and all People of common Discernment must plainly see to be, in your Character, I mean the frequent Insinuations and Reproaches, that you so fillily and inconsiderately throw out upon the honourable

honourable Gentleman, for having been sent to the *Tower* in the last four Years of the Reign of Queen *Anne*; when the Lord *Godolphin* was displaced and charged with the Mismanagement of the Publick Treasure: When Articles were actually exhibited against the *Duke of Marlborough*, in order to ground an Information on, in the Court of *Exchequer*, for applying the Money that was to have provided the Army with Bread, to his own Use, and for several other Corruptions which that illustrious Person was charged with in the said Articles; at the same Time, and by the same Persons it was, that the other honourable Gentleman was sent to the *Tower*, upon a Charge of some Corruptions which he had likewise been Guilty of in his Office; but with so little Colour or Foundation of Truth, that even you publicly voted to acquit him of the Charge, and concurr'd with a great many Gentlemen in the Opinion of his Innocence then, what Reasons soever you may have had to induce you to change your Sentiments concerning that Matter since.

You seem to take it very much amiss to be told, that there was a Time, when you thought it the highest Honour, and first Distinction of your Life, to be rank'd in the Number of that Great Man's Friends; and say, that the Assertion is False, and that you were so far from ever thinking it so, that at the

very

very Time when you acted with him, and endeavour'd to support him, you had much the same Opinion of his private Character, which you have at present.

If you had the same Opinion of this Gentleman's private Character and personal Integrity, at the Time you acted in Concert with him, and, as you say, endeavour'd to support him, which you pretend to have at present; What Opinion, do you imagine, must the World have of your own *private Character, and personal Integrity*, and of all your Pretences to *Patriotism and Publick Spirit*? If the honourable Gentleman really was what you have endeavour'd and labour'd so strongly to represent him to be, namely, without Morals or Honour, as a private Man; and Ignorant, and Corrupt, and a thousand other Things, as a Minister; and that you always knew him to be so, but that, notwithstanding, you acted in Concert with him, and endeavour'd to support him, while it was correspondent to your own Views so to do, I would willingly know what personal Integrity, or what publick Virtues a Man, who acts such a Part, can be suppos'd to have? Let us state the Case; You know a Person to be without Honour and Integrity; the same Person gets a considerable Office in the State, you appear among the Number of his Friends, you act in Concert with him, you endeavour
all

all you can to support him; it is plain you cannot do this for the sake of your Country, for surely there cannot be a greater Injury done to that, than to advance a Man of no Character, of no personal Integrity, into the Administration of her principal Offices and Honours; on the other Hand, it can be out of no private personal Friendship or Esteem for the Man himself, which possibly might have made you blind to his Failings; for at the same Time that you did all these wonderful Things that you talk of, to promote his Interests, and advance his Fortunes; you say that you despised him, and look'd upon him to be a Man of no Character or Integrity: With what View therefore could it be, that so good and wise a Patriot, should associate himself with, and endeavour to support so weak and so corrupt a Minister? Why, 'tis evident from your own Words, without wresting their Construction beyond the plain and natural Import of them, that it was Interest, and Ambition, and the Hopes of raising your own Fortunes, under the Sanction and Authority of his Friendship, that made you his Friend *then*; and 'tis also as evident, that the same Interest and Ambition, perhaps a little check'd and controul'd, makes you his Enemy *now*.

But since you have presum'd to call a Gentleman's private Character and personal Integrity

grity in question, the World will surely expect that you should shew in what particular Instance he has forfeited either; even those that your Libels may have influenc'd and im-bitter'd against him, so far as to believe the worst Things, and most monstrous Falshoods that you can invent of him as a Minister, will be a little cautious how they take every thing upon Trust that you say of him as a private Man; if you will, with the greatest Baseness and Inhumanity imaginable, affirm of any Man, that he has no personal Integrity, without all doubt, the World, to whom you make this Declaration, will expect that you should prove your Words; not only that Gentleman's Character, but every honest Man's is concerned; and 'tis a Piece of Justice due to the whole Community in general, and to every Member of it in particular, as well as to Him who is more immediately the Subject of the Slander and Abuse, to treat the nameless Libeller, with the same Contempt and Abhorrence which he endeavours to stir up and provoke against the Person he libels.

I believe there never was a stronger Instance, how much Envy, Rage, Resentment, and those malignant Passions deform the human Mind, than you have given in this last Production of your Pen; the Inconsistencies and Contradictions that every Page abounds with, make it manifest how much *your Mind*

is

is depraved by them, that your Book does not only in one Passage contradict what is said in another; but even makes you deny at one time, what you have affirm'd at another, and forget yourself in an hundred Instances. Formerly the late Lord B. was an Enemy to his Country, and unworthy to breathe the Air of a free Government, which he had endeavour'd to change into an Arbitrary one, to gratify his Ambition or Vanity, or worse Passions; now it is very much to be lamented that he should be prevented by his Attainder, which is a very great Misfortune to this very same Country, *from exerting his unquestionable Capacities in the Service of it*: Now the Honourable Gentleman, who is at present the Object of your Displeasure, is a weak, ignorant, blundering Minister, and *a Pedlar in Politicks*: Formerly he was a Man of such nice Address, and excellent Skill in the Arts of Courts, and so great a Master of the World, that he not only knew better than all others how to acquire Power, but how to keep Possession of it when it was acquired; and according to that Opinion which you had of him then, I have been informed, you told a *certain Person*, on a *certain Occasion*, that if He, meaning the above-mentioned honourable Gentleman, should get into Power for a Week, he would continue in Possession of it for Ever.

But where is the Wonder, if he who was once so wise, should now deserve all those extraordinary Appellations that you are pleased so liberally to bestow upon him? That he should now be changed into a *Blunderer*, a *Dupe*, a *Zealot*, a *Pedlar in Politicks*? Since you, *sage Sir*, have withdrawn your Counsels from him; and that Hand that was once his Support, is now sworn to be his Destruction; what Confusion must this be to his Friends! what Triumph to his Enemies! Who would not think this Gentleman's Condition very much to be pitied? And yet he does not seem himself to be in the least sensible of it. I am surprized, Sir, that you have not produced this as another Instance of his Ignorance and Stupidity!

You have been frequently charged by the Writers against you with acting from Motives of Revenge and Disappointment, *that you expected and insisted on a very great Employment*, but your Pretensions either not being justly founded, or not proper to be comply'd with, you immediately turn'd all your Artillery against the Measures of the Administration, and commenced Patriot when you could keep no longer in Place. You seem to exert all your Strength to refute this Accusation; and by the extraordinary Pains you

you take to vindicate your Character from this Aspersions, as you would have it thought, one would be apt to imagine it was not absolutely without Foundation. I own, I am altogether a Stranger to the Fact; I can only collect my own Sentiments concerning it, from the great Zeal and Earnestness you shew lest the Story should be believed: You must be sensible yourself, that ever since your Defection it has been currently reported; and setting aside the ridiculous Cant, and stale Pretensions of Patriotism, and Publick Spirit, there can be no other Way of accounting for your Virulence to the Minister, and the extravagant and unreasonable Opposition you have given to the Measures of his Administration.

You take it very much amiss, that it should be deny'd that ever you contributed to the Elevation of the Minister; but at the same time very ingenuously acknowledge, that he *brought you into Places you were no ways intitled to*; but because you will not allow that any Obligation is due from you to him on that Account, you tell him, that this was meant as no extraordinary Instance of his Favour for you in particular, *for that it has been always his Practice to bring People into Places to which they are no ways intitled*; however, you must admit, that once in his Life,

Life, at least, he deviated from his old Rule, I mean, when he refused you the Office of Secretary of State.

But you go on with your usual Elegance and good Breeding to tell the honourable Gentleman, *that he forgets his own Circumstances when you were first advanced to a publick Employment*; that saying you were raised by him, was saying, *that you were raised by a WRETCH, who had not Credit enough to raise an Hundred Pound upon his own Security*. Whether the honourable Gentleman could raise such a Sum or not, upon his own Security, I conceive is not at all material to the present Question; however, there is one Reason to believe, notwithstanding you affirm it so readily, that you do not know whether he could or not, because it is very plain he never apply'd to borrow any Money of you; if he had, I am sure, the World would have been told of it long ago in Print.

The long Account you are pleased to entertain the Publick with, concerning your own great Estate, who it was left by, and how it was acquired, of your own Generosity, Oeconomy, and prudent Management of your domestick Concerns, is too trifling and idle to be animadverted upon; if the Author
of

of the Remarks has misrepresented or mistaken that Affair, I think that will hardly be a sufficient Excuse for you, for entering into so long a Detail of it : You certainly have a very considerable Estate, and you seem not to be a little vain of it ; you know that will give you Importance, if nothing else will ; and for that Reason you very prudently determine to make the most of it, and lock the Produce of it up in your own Coffers.

But so well satisfied as you appear to be with your own Estate, why should you envy any other Gentleman his ? Why should you boast of your own Riches ? And reproach another with his Poverty ? If you had a good Estate by Descent, the honourable Gentleman had at least as good a one ; if you kept yours intire and together, all the World knows he broke into his to serve his Friends, his Country, and the Interest he had espous'd ; he distributed his Treasure, with no unsparing Hands, to preserve the Liberties of *England*, when they were really at their last Gasps, against the desperate Designs and pernicious Projects of a Person whom you have since taken into your Bosom, and who was actually attainted, for endeavouring to overturn the Constitution, and to subvert the present Establishment ; and this at a Time when there was very little Probability of his ever receiving a

suitable

suitable Satisfaction; a Recompence equal to so great Services. And shall you, who have received great Sums of the publick Money, from the profitable Employments you have possess'd, who have writ and declaimed about Liberty and the Prosperity of your Country, but never contributed a Shilling to serve it, shall you ask the honourable Gentleman, *what Instances he has ever given; what Tokens he has ever discovered of a frank liberal Heart?* Shall you tax him *with the Profusion of the publick Treasure, on a worthless Crew of Pimps, Spies, Projectors, and abandon'd Scribblers?* Shall you charge him with the Acquisition of *immense Riches by the Sale of Honours, Places, and Pensions;* the Wages of Iniquity and Corruption; and all this too in a little, mean, scandalous, anonymous Libel, when you have over and over been required to do it, in the proper Place, where the Gentleman has always declared himself ready to stand any Scrutiny that you, or any one else should have thought fit to make into his Conduct; but you have there always prudently avoided the Contest?

You would fain persuade the People to believe that you are a very formidable Person to this Gentleman; that the Vow you have made of Destruction, has fill'd him with dreadful Apprehensions, that he has caused it to be
repre-

represented as the most *bloody-minded Vow* that ever was made, and more becoming a Polish Diet than an English Parliament. But you are notwithstanding of Opinion, that it is perfectly agreeable to the Nature of an English Parliament (an honest uncorrupt one you mean). For my own Part, I really don't know what Sentiments the honourable Gentleman, against whom you have made this Vow, may entertain of it, but am inclin'd to think, that they are much the same that most other People seem to have of it, that is, that it was a very ridiculous foolish Vow, and that the Author has much more Reason to be ashamed, than the honourable Gentleman afraid of it: I should be apt to imagine, that a Man who was capable of publicly making such a silly unadvised Declaration of his Intent to pursue another Person to Destruction, would never be capable of putting it in Execution; it is more like the Frenzy or Raving of a Madman, than the determin'd Resolution of a Politician or Patriot, form'd upon deliberate Counsels, and cool Advice: And tho' I have a very great Regard to the Character of the honourable Person that you have vow'd to Destruction, and sincerely think him a very wise, a very able, and a very upright Minister; yet, if I imagin'd he could be under any Consternation or Uneasiness on account of your *foolish Vow*, I should soon consider him

in quite a different Light from what I do at present, and have as contemptible an Opinion of him for being alarm'd at your *horrid Imprecation*, as you call it, as all Mankind must have of you for making such a ridiculous Bluffer; but I dare answer for it, your Vow raises no other Emotion in him but Laughter.

What has been said concerning your Vow, I conceive will go a great way to destroy the Credit of your idle, unmannerly, improbable Story of the *Penny Post Letter and the Plot*, which you say put this Gentleman into such a terrible Panick, that he came to your House at Midnight to seek for Shelter and Protection from you, with whom he had not exchange'd a Word for two Years before, and who was at that Time his open avow'd Enemy, and, for ought I know, might then have made this horrible Vow for his Destruction. Indeed I am not at all acquainted with the Reason why this Gentleman did pay you a Visit at such a time of Night as you say (if the whole Story is not of your own Invention) or what Grounds he had to believe that some Design was form'd to take away his Life; if he really had any such Apprehensions, I make no question but they were upon a very just and a very reasonable Foundation, and was not the first Attempt of that kind that has been made against him;

him; but if one may judge of his Behaviour under this Circumstance, from the Observations that have been made of it in all others, from his first Appearance in publick Life, there is no Colour to believe that Part, at least, of this scandalous Tale to be true, where you describe him with a *pale Countenance, and a trembling Voice, and not able to give the most simple Story that ever was told, Utterance*: In all the nice and various, and critical Conjunctions, and difficult and dangerous Encounters with more formidable Adversaries than ever you, or any of your Associates have yet appear'd to be, which he must necessarily have pass'd thro' in the Course of his long Administration, I believe nobody ever heard till now of his want of Courage or Fortitude, or Presence of Mind, or of any other great Quality, when the Business of the Publick, or a proper Occasion call'd upon him to exert them; this Story therefore, must either be wholly false, or the Circumstances of it so varied and disguised, that will make it amount to the same Thing. What therefore could be a sufficient Provocation to a Man, whose Passions and Resentments had not raz'd out of his Mind all Sense of Shame and Honour, to invent, or, which is all one, to model a Story of this Sort, to serve his present base and sinister Purposes, which is such an injurious Reflexion upon the Character of a Gentleman

of very great Distinction, and such a scandalous Imposition upon the Publick.

Whenever the Printer of the *Craftsman* has been sent for to answer for any scandalous Paragraph or Passage in that Paper, what infamous Clamours have been rais'd against the aforementioned Gentleman, as if, conscious of his Guilt, and afraid of condign Punishment, he was endeavouring to put a Stop to all national Inquiries, in order to stifle any Scrutiny that might be made into his Conduct; but, for God's sake, what is all this that they call a national Inquiry? Are long tedious Declamations against Corruption, and Bribery, and Pensions, a national Inquiry? Are weekly Libels upon one Gentleman, his Brother, or his Family, a national Inquiry? Are unmannerly ribald Jest, upon the Loss of a Tooth belonging to one Gentleman, or a Button belonging to another, a national Inquiry? Is the History of *Sejanus*, or *Woolsey*, or *Buckingham*, or other evil Ministers, a national Inquiry? Are *Oldcastle's* Remarks on the History of *England*, a national Inquiry? Have the Authors of a Two-penny Weekly Journal, a Right to make a national Inquiry? Or was a national Inquiry wanted till Mr. *P.* was out of the M——y? He complain'd of no Corruptions, no Mismanagements, no Grievance of any Sort,
till

till his private Views and Interests rouz'd up a Spirit of Patriotism in him: This brings into my Mind the Story of the Clerk in *Chancery* in the Time of *Oliver Cromwell*; he had seen with great Indifference and Tranquility, all the various Alterations and Revolutions that had been made in the Constitution, both in Church and State, and conform'd very loyally and dutifully to every Form of Government, and every Sect of Religion, as it happen'd to be uppermost; but when he came at last to be told, that the Parliament intended to make some Regulations in the Six Clerks Office, *Nay*, says he, *if they begin once to strike at Fundamentals, nobody knows where they will stop!*

You think it necessary to your Defence, as you are pleas'd to call this infamous Abuse on another Gentleman, to explain some Matters of *Secret History*, concerning the *Reconciliation between his present Majesty and the late King*; and if any one Part of this precious Libel can be said to shine with greater Lustre than another, here, I conceive, in good truth, that you have exceeded yourself, and made your own Character appear with all those *amiable Qualities* with which you have endeavour'd to load that other Gentleman's. It is a Repetition of a Conversation which pass'd between that Gentleman and your self,

many

many Years ago, the Truth of which you aver upon your Honour, and leave the World to decide upon your Characters, which of you ought to be believed. I have not yet heard whether the Honourable Gentleman denies the Truth of this Story or not; if he does, I am sure there are many Reasons why the World should give Credit to him before you in this Matter; and I desire it should be put upon no other Issue than that which you yourself have put it on; I mean, upon the Honour and Character of the Noble Person and your own: For even in this Story, in which you have endeavour'd, in so ungenerous a Manner, to say no worse of it, to blacken his Character, and exalt your own; it may be collected, even from your own Words, that you are a Person of no Honour, whatever you would have him thought to be; and indeed when one comes to consider the Manner and Occasion of your telling this Tale, it will be hard to say, whether it discovers more Weakness or Malice.

You say, the Honourable Person sent to you one Day, desiring to speak with you, and that you came; as no doubt you always were ready and willing enough to be at his Beek; when you were together, some Conversation pass'd about a Reconciliation that was then in Agitation between the late K—— and his present

M——,

Mi—, the Terms of which, you say, you did not approve, though a Peerage was stipulated for you, which you tell us you were willing enough to accept, for the Sake of your Family, though I think at that Time you had no Child: You do not say, indeed, whether an *English Peerage* or an *Irish one* was meant; but which of them soever it was, you refus'd it, because you could not approve of the Terms upon which it was offer'd; for this Reason, I presume, it might have been the *latter*. Well, you received the Honourable Gentleman's Offers with Disdain, and by your insolent and haughty Behaviour to him upon this Occasion, a Man of the least Discernment must easily have seen that your Friendship was not at all to be depended on; but notwithstanding you treated him with all this Rudeness and Contempt, he takes no manner of Notice of it; but continues the Conversation with you with as much Openness and Freedom, as if you had entertain'd his Proposals with as much Chearfulness and Alacrity, as you describe him to have made them. Nay, after all this Scorn and Neglect of your Side, as if the Honourable Gentleman was under some unusual Infatuation or Disorder of Mind, he enters still into a nearer Confidence and Intimacy with you, and then you make him say Things to you, which no Man in his Senses could say, and which it would be indecent for me to repeat;

nay,

nay, which the Event proves could not be true; for the Honourable Gentleman, did not come into the Treasury, upon the Reconciliation above-mentioned, but upon another Contingency, which could not be then foreseen, I mean upon the Fall of the *South Sea* Stock, when the Lord *Sunderland* was on that account, and that only, obliged to resign, which it does not at all appear he would otherwise have done, and which did not happen till a Year afterwards; upon this you went immediately, you say, to his *R. H.* and told him, *that he was sold to his Father's Ministers, by Persons who consider'd nothing but themselves, and their own Interest, and were in haste to make their Fortunes;* but conceal'd till now the most material Circumstance of your Tale, which was the strongest Argument you could have made use of to confirm the Truth of what you have said, and to prevail upon him to believe you, tho' there can be no Reason why you should keep this a Secret, after you had betray'd the rest of the Conversation that pass'd between you; nay, if you believ'd the honourable Gentleman was such a Person as you represented him to be, was it not your Duty to let his *R. H.* know it, that he might be upon his Guard against him? Or was it consistent with a Man of Honour to act in Concert with such a Person, and to

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continue in his Friendship and Interests for many Years afterwards ; no, the whole Story has the Air of Falshood and Improbability, trump'd up to serve a mean and scandalous Purpose ; and every reasonable Man must conclude, that whoever, under the highest Provocations, or Motives of Indignation and Resentment whatsoever, could be ungenerous enough to repeat such an infamous Tale, could be base enough to invent it.

I shall take one Word of Notice of the Combination you mention, *that you, in Conjunction with several other Gentlemen, have enter'd into, never to listen to any Treaty, from whomsoever it may come, till this honourable Person is delivered up to the Justice of his Country,* and conclude.

I am apt to imagine, that if he had made any such Attempts as you mention, to have brought over any of the Gentlemen in the Opposition, he would not have proved so unsuccessful in his Endeavours, as you would persuade the World to believe he has been ; I have heard, he knows the Price that every one of them insists upon, and that the Purchase would be upon easy Terms enough, if he thought it worth his while to make it ; nay, if any Credit is to be given to a common receiv'd, current Report, which has a

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long

long while run about the Town, that as great a Contempt as you pretend to have for this Gentleman's Policy and Capacity, he has even now, at this present Juncture, one of the warmest, zealoufist, loudest Members of your Cabal in his Interest and Service, by whose Means he is acquainted with the most secret, most sacred Transactions that pass in it: He knows every Resolution you form, and every Step you make; and he laughs at all, but is alarm'd at none; nay, he would not be at all surprized or concerned, if Books should be kept open at Mr. *Franklin's*, and publick Notice given of it in the *Craftsman*, of all Persons who are so disposed, to come and subscribe this terrible Association; however, this Conspiracy brings into my Mind a *Text of Scripture*, with which I can't do better than conclude.

The xxiii. Chapter of the *Acts of the Apostles*, and the 12th and 13th Verses.

And when it was Day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a Curse, saying, that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

And they were more than forty which had made this Conspiracy.

F I N . I S .